CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 7, 17-19, 21, and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 24-26.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5,

b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5,

c) a polypeptide comprising a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5, and

d) a polypeptide consisting of an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5.

2. (Original) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5.

3. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.

4. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6-10.

5. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

6. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 5.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

9. (Original) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide ~~comprising a polynucleotide sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6-10,

b) a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6-10,

c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide ~~sequence complementary to~~ of a),

d) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide ~~sequence complementary to~~ of b), and

e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

11. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 10.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 10, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 16 contiguous nucleotides ~~comprising~~ of a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

13. (Original) A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 30 contiguous nucleotides.

14. (Original) A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

15. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. (Original) A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional CME, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment the pharmaceutical composition of claim 15.

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 4, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, and

b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide.

24. (New) A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and

b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 1 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.

25. (New) A microarray wherein at least one element of the microarray is a polynucleotide of claim 11.

26. (New) A method of generating an expression profile of a sample which contains polynucleotides, the method comprising:

a) labeling the polynucleotides of the sample,

b) contacting the elements of the microarray of claim 25 with the labeled polynucleotides of the sample under conditions suitable for the formation of a hybridization complex, and

c) quantifying the expression of the polynucleotides in the sample.